

# SEATTLE DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS

# P-PATCH COMMUNITY

# GARDENING PROGRAM

*The P-Patch Community Gardening Program is made up of community managed open spaces in Seattle neighborhoods. Gardeners, individually and collectively, use small plots of land to grow organic food, flowers, fruits, and herbs.*

*The gardens are open to the public to enjoy. Each garden is different and their amenities may include picnic areas, benches, art, flower gardens, educational signage, sustainability demonstrations and children's gardens.*



## PROGRAM DETAILS

The P-Patch Community Gardening Program is managed by the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods in partnership with the P-Patch Trust, a non-profit corporation. As of January, 2013, there are 81 P-Patch community gardens, 2650 plots, and 6100 gardeners.

P-Patch gardens have a diverse history and serve diverse needs. The first garden, Picardo Farm, was created in 1973 by a group of community residents and the city of Seattle. Since then, gardens have rapidly grown and continue to do so. Gardens are built on public property owned by various city departments and other public and private owners. Gardens range from small to large, and cooperative style (shared plots) to large-tract market gardens (food grown by low-income farmers to sell).

Oldest Site: Picardo (2.5 acres)

Newest Site: Bitter Lake in North Seattle

Largest Site: Thistle (3+ acres)

Smallest Site: Pelican Tea Collective

# of Sites with ADA accessible raised beds: 18

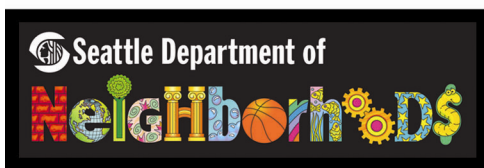
# of Market Gardens: 3



## NEW GARDENS OPENING

With \$2 million from the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy, P-Patch community gardens are growing. In partnership with community volunteers, the program leveraged its original funding for four gardens to 20 new or expanded gardens by 2013. In addition, community members also work to develop gardens on their own with support from the P-Patch staff and Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Neighborhood Matching Fund.

With savings from the Levy, seven new projects have been added in 2013. These projects will include urban agriculture opportunities and gardens in areas with low-income housing.



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# Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

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### MORE PROGRAM FACTS

#### SUCCESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

In addition to our staff's work, P-Patch community gardens thrive through the dedication of many organizations and through the gardeners themselves.

- 6100+ gardeners volunteer more than 21,933 hours annually (equivalent to 10 full-time staff).
- P-Patch Trust.
- Solid Ground's Lettuce Link.
- Seattle Tilth.
- Seattle Housing Authority.



#### P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENS IN DEMAND

Because demand is high, staff is working hard to grow capacity, as well as support other community gardening efforts:

- 1,000+ people on Interest List (as of December 2012).
- Waiting time is between 3 months and 4 years.
- Annual turnover across whole program averages 22%.

#### PROGRAMS FOR LOW-INCOME AND UNDERREPRESENTED POPULATIONS

A core value of the P-Patch Program is to support low-income and underrepresented populations. For example, through the Market Garden Program, low-income and immigrant families living in South Park and Seattle Housing Authority properties garden and sell their produce to local residents. In 2012, 23 gardeners representing 9 cultures collaborated to provide produce for a variety of venues: farm stands, senior centers, and in community-supported agriculture (CSA).

#### Garden Fees

Garden plots run in different sizes:

10 x 10 – \$37

10 x 20 – \$49

10 x 40 – \$73

Financial assistance is available for those who can't afford plot fees.

In addition to the annual fee, eight hours of volunteer time is required to maintain public areas of the P-Patch.

#### GARDENERS SUPPORT FOOD BANKS

- 40% of gardeners donate at least once a month.
- Many gardens have a designated “giving garden” plot in which the food is grown for food banks and hot meal programs.
- Gardeners donated more than 26,248 pounds of produce in 2012.

#### GARDENERS ARE DIVERSE

In 2010: 70% were low income.  
27% were people of color.  
46% live in apartments.  
73% had no gardening space where they live.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

**P-Patch Community Gardening Program**

**Seattle Department of Neighborhoods**

**Phone:** (206) 684-0264

**Email:** [p-patch.don@seattle.gov](mailto:p-patch.don@seattle.gov)

**Web:** [www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/ppatch/](http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/ppatch/)

